

Message Text

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22-12

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 300610Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3506

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANA

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USEUCOM

USMTM DHAHRAN

USAS RIYADH

S E C R E T JIDDA 0659

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, YE

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR YAR

REF: 75 STATE 122278

SUMMARY: OSD TEAM, USMTM REPRESENTATIVES, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM EMBASSIES JIDDA AND SANA MET WITH SAG NODA SECURITY ASSISTANCE STAFF OFFICERS, COL FALAH DHAHIRI AND LTCOL MUHAMMAD MADI, IN RIYADH 26 JAN TO DISCUSS MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YAR. MODA HAS COMPLETED A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR INITIAL 5 YEAR PHASE OF MODERNIZATION, TO INCLUDE DEVELOPMENT OF DETAILED TABLE OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT FOR YAR ARMY INFANTRY BRIGADE. COL DHAHIRI PROVIDED OSD REPRESENTATIVES WITH AN ARMY EQUIPMENT SHOPPING LIST FOR WHICH MODA WOULD LIKE USG LETTERS OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE (LOAS) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

1. ARMY: SAG PLAN ENVISAGES REORGANIZATION OF PRESENT 12 UNDERSTRENGTH YAR ARMY BRIGADES INTO 6 MODERNIZED FULL
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STRENGTH BRIGADES OF 3030 MEN EACH. MODA DESIRES TO PROVIDE

EQUIPMENT COMPATIBLE WITH SAG ARMY INVENTORY TO SIMPLIFY TRAINING AND LOGISTICS. MODA PREFERS US ARMY EQUIPMENT FOR ALL ITEMS EXCEPT FOR A FEW CATEGORIES ALREADY PROVIDED OR PLANNED FOR FRENCH SUCH AS TACTICAL RADIOS AND PANHARD ARMORED CARS. MODA PLANS TO PROVIDE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM EXISTING SAUDI ARMY STOCKS (I.E. EXCESS 75 MM AND 106 MM RECOILLESS RIFLES), G-3 RIFLES AND AMMUNITION FROM MODA FACTORY, OR WHERE APPROPRIATE BY PROCUREMENT FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES (SUCH AS BULLDOZERS ETC, FOR ENGINEER UNITS.) SHOPPING LIST DESIRED FROM USG ROUNDS OUT INFANTRY BRIGADE AND ARTILLERY EQUIPMENT SAG CAN NOT PROVIDE FROM ABOVE SOURCES, AND INCLUDES MANY MINOR ITEMS SUCH AS BINOCULARS, COMPASSES, AND GAS MASKS. OSD TEAM WILL HAND CARRY COPY OF LIST TO WASHINGTON. EXAMPLES OF MAJOR ITEMS INCLUDED ARE:

127	CAL 50 MACHINE GUNS
81	81 MM MORTARS
76	105 MM HOWITZERS TOWED W/AMMO
74	TOWED VULCAN AIR DEFENSE GUNS W/AMMO
610	1/4 TON TRUCKS
377	1 AND 1/4 TON TRUCKS
541	2 AND 1/2 TON TRUCKS
301	5 TON TRUCKS
93	AMBULANCES
75	1200 GALLON WATER TANKERS
50	1200 GALLON FUEL TANKERS

2. AIR FORCE: INITIAL SAG PLAN TO PROVIDE TWO SQUADRONS OF F-5 AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN REDUCED FOR FIRST 5-YEAR PHASE TO ONLY FOUR F-5B AIRCRAFT, NINE HELICOPTERS, LIMITED TRAINING AND AIR BASE FACILITY CONSTRUCTION. MODA NOW HAS IN TRAINING IN KINGDOM 5 YAR CADETS IN KING FAISAL AIR ACADEMY AND 10 TECHNICIANS IN RSAF TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE IN DHAHRAN. SAUDIS PLAN TO ACCEPT 10 ADDITIONAL ACADEMY CADETS, TO CONVERT 8 YAR PILOTS TO F-5, AND TO TRAIN 36 TECHNICIANS ON F-5 MAINTENANCE. SAG PLANS PROVIDE F-5B AIRCRAFT TO YAR IN 4TH QUARTER CY 1977, PERHAPS FROM PRESENT RSAF INVENTORY TO BE REPLACED BY NEWER F-5FS FOR RSAF. HELICOPTERS WOULD BE 6 AB 205 TYPES AND 3 ALOUETTE III. AIR BASE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PLANNED FOR SANA AND TA'IZ, AND WILL INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION AND 3 RADAR SETS FOR SECRET

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EACH BASE WITH EXTENSION OF RUNWAY AT LATTER AIRFIELD. IRAQ HAS AGREED TO MODERNIZE HODEIDA AIR BASE.

3. NAVY: MODA HAS NO PLANS FOR YAR NAVY FOR TIME BEING, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF VERY LIMITED SAG NAVAL CAPABILITY AT PRESENT TIME. OSD REPRESENTATIVE SUGGESTED INTEGRATION OF SMALL NUMBERS OF YAR NAVY PERSONNEL INTO SNEP TRAINING PROGRAM. MODA STAFF LIKED IDEA AND AGREED TO STUDY POSSI-

BILITIES.

4. IMPLEMENTATION: MODA HAS BEGUN FORMATION OF A SECURITY ASSISTANCE STAFF ELEMENT, BUT DECISION NOT YET MADE WHETHER IT WILL RESPOND DIRECTLY TO PRINCE SULTAN OR BE SUBORDINATE TO G-STAFF. LTGENERAL KABBANI MAY HEAD THE ORGANIZATION. APPEARS COLONELS DHAHIRI AND MADI WILL BE KEY MEMBERS. BOTH ARE CAPABLE AND ENTHUSIASTIC. DHAHIRI HAS LONG EXPERIENCE AS MODA G-3 TRAINING OFFICER. MADI HAS JUST RETURNED FROM UNIVERSITY OF S. ILLINOIS WHERE HE OBTAINED A PHD WITH HIS DISSERTATION WRITTEN ON MIDDLE MANAGEMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA. MODA PLANS TO OPEN A MILITARY TRAINING MISSION IN SANA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF 10 OFFICERS AND ABOUT 50 ENLISTED MEN TO REMAIN FOR THE DURATION OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN. THEY DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY REQUIREMENT FOR FRENCH ADVISORY ASSISTANCE, BUT DO EXPECT A REQUIREMENT FOR SOME US ADVISORY INVOLVEMENT SUCH AS MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS. ALSO SAG WOULD LIKE SOME SPACES FOR YEMENI STUDENTS IN US SERVICE SCHOOLS, WITH MAXIMUM POSSIBLE TO BE PROVIDED ON A GRANT AID (MAP) BASIS.

5. MODALITIES: OSD REPRESENTATIVES THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED ISSUES OF EQUIPMENT TRANSFERS, ACCEPTANCE AND FUNDING OF LOAS AND SHIPMENT OF EQUIPMENT. COL DHAHIRI AGREED TO REOPEN SUBJECT AGAIN WITH PRINCE SULTAN TO SEEK HIS APPROVAL FOR METHOD SUGGESTED IN LETTER LAST MAY (PARA 2B REF). HOWEVER AS MODA PLANS TO PROVIDE SOME TRAINING AND BACK-UP LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FROM SAUDI ARMY BASES IN KINGDOM, THEY WILL DESIRE SHIPMENT OF SOME SPARES AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT OR AMMO STOCKS DIRECT TO KINGDOM.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: RECOMMEND PROMPT REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SAG EQUIPMENT LIST AND PREPARATION OF LOAS. USMTM IS
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ASSISTING MODA IN TRANSLATION AND DEFINITIZATION OF THE PROPOSED YAR BRIGADE ORGANIZATION. COPIES WILL BE SUBMITTED TO DOD SHORTLY. MODA REQUESTS DOD REVIEW OF APPROPRIATENESS AND ADEQUACY WITH REVISIONS TO THEIR EQUIPMENT LIST TO BE MADE AS REQUIRED.
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